

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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TENANTS PAID £20000 TO QUIT

Some two years ago Hackney Council missed the chance to buy a large private estate in South Hackney, and the tenants have been left to the tender mercies of a housing trust with strong connections with the construction and property company which is proceeding to sell off the houses at vast profits.

The Sir John Cass Charity was founded in 1710 although it was not fully established until 1748 after years of dispute over the will as Sir John Cass was reputed to have died in the act of signing it. The Charity provided schools for the poor around Aldgate using income from the large estate mainly in Poplar and South Hackney. The part of the estate in Hackney consists of several hundred houses situated along and just off Cassland Road built mainly in the early nineteenth century. Along the Cassland Road is what is probably the finest Georgian terrace in Hackney.

About two years ago the Cass Estate sold the larger part of its Hackney houses to the World of Property Housing Trust (WOPHT) for rehabilitation. The trust itself was started in 1969 by Tory barrister Francis Benyon to divert some small portion of the vast profits then being made from property speculation into housing. The board of management of WOPHT contains many names from property and construction companies. The trust is not a registered Housing Association but is listed under 'other bodies' in the register kept at the Housing Corporation. WOPHT plans to rehabilitate 513 houses and have received £2,500,000 from Hackney Council which in turn has received

money from the Government. The Cass Estate Tenants Association was formed at the time of the original proposals and has represented the tenants at subsequent negotiations and meetings with the WOPHT. To date the leaders of the tenants, although disappointed that progress has been slow, seem to be satisfied with the way WOPHT have been handling matters. No tenants will be forced to move away (or even be compelled to have the work done), and although rents will naturally rise on completion they will be phased up to 'fair' rent levels as determined by the rent officer.

More insidious is the sale of a much smaller part of the estate to Silex Holdings - a property company, and whose agents in Hackney are Selby of Lower Clapton Road. This part of the estate includes nos 20-54 Cassland Road described in estate agents' language as 'fine period residences'. One of these houses has already been sold freehold for £21,500 and it is clearly the intention of Silex to make large profits by selling the houses with vacant possession. An indication of the profits to be made is given by the fact that Silex have offered tenants £2,000 to move, and have also approached relatives of the tenants in order to gain vacant possession. Although there have been no cases of further harassment many tenants are afraid because there are illegal sub-tenants and other instances where tenants are particularly vulnerable to pressure.

The fact that Hackney Council failed to buy up these houses when they were offered is a disgrace on two counts. Firstly those tenants



Cassland Road, where tenants are being winkled out with bribes of up to £2000. Some of the finest buildings in Hackney, say the property company. Will the people of Hackney be able to live in them?

who come under the World of Property Housing Trust will not have the protection of the rent acts (as is true of all Housing Association tenants), nor even a landlord that is responsible in the manner of a local authority. It is hard to reconcile the interest of the tenants with a landlord controlled by property and construction interests. On the second count, the resale of houses by Silex Holdings for over £20,000 each can only lead to a further influx of

people from outside the borough who can afford these prices - in other words, gentrification. This has already occurred in Islington and the de Beauvoir area of Hackney, and has reduced the number of houses available to Hackney people. It is surely the duty of any Labour borough to seize the opportunity to buy a block of housing such as the Sir John Cass Estate when it is available and so keep the houses for those in greatest need of it.

WORK STARTS AT WOMEN'S AID!

Work has at last started on the Women's Aid refuge. A skip was spotted late one night outside the refuge and it transpired that the builders had begun to clear out the fire damage, and to rewire one of the two houses (the other needs much less work done on it), but work on that building has yet again come to a halt. The GLC fire officer, who has in the past been responsible for considerable delay in the repair programme, was unable to attend on site until 2 February to finalise arrangements for fire precautions. The builders had to stop working for several days while the Borough Valuers Department, which is organising the repairs for Hackney Borough, waited for the go-ahead from the GLC.

The GLC fire officer was originally involved because of the fire in the previous refuge; he took two months to inspect the site, gave a verbal agreement to fire precautions as

planned by the Borough Valuers Department (at which point it looked as if everything could begin), and then sent in five pages of amendments. A tender on the previous plans had already been agreed with the builders as a result of the agreement on site, and so a new tender had to be put in, examined, and accepted and a new starting date decided, representing another two month delay.

However, it looks as if the building may begin again next week (after 6 February), and will take, according to Mr Nicholson of the Borough Valuers Department, approximately two months.

Women's Aid has now a full time worker and moreover has got storage space for furniture until the refuge opens. So if anyone has any tables, chairs, fridges, cookers, toys in good condition, please ring 986 8111 ex 57 and ask for Sophie (or leave a message)



DHSS MOVES TO OUST HOSTEL

The campaign to oust Carmel Carter and the groups who have been running the houses for single homeless people in Lansdowne Drive hotted up this month. Since the report in our last issue the GLC are trying to put pressure in ways more subtle than a forceful eviction.

On 4 February the men received their Giro, and found £13.05 in place of £22.30. Previously the management were paid £17.50 and the men given a Giro for £4.70 "pocket money". Naturally, they still want and need their £4.70. There was a great deal of anger when the full reality of this form of harassment hit them. The management committee are expected to provide all the meals, heat, light and other services for £8.35 - clearly an impossibility. Are they supposed to starve the residents, or beg money from other sources? The clear purpose of the authorities who brought this about was to set the people at each other's throats.

The committee had received a letter from the Social Security officers in Bonhill Street, where most of the residents are registered, two weeks previously, informing them that they were going to be put on a lower rate of benefit. Carmel Carter and Joseph Keans went to protest. They are taking legal advice on the matter, since the officers' explanation was more than a little confusing and inconsistent.

The officers explained that, under the Act, there are only three categories of people who can claim Supplementary Benefit:

1. householders, who have a rent to pay and
2. non-householders. These are not defined in the Act, but the Supplementary Benefits Commission defined it as someone who doesn't pay a rent, so they get a lower rate. Such are squatters, and people who choose to live together in communities, including women's aid hostels, etc.
3. Boarders - who live with others and pay a set amount for board and lodging.

As long as the houses were managed by the Novo Housing Association the residents counted as 3. - boarders, and a corresponding allowance was paid.

Now they are to be re-classified as 2. - non-householders.

Carmel Carter, a leading member of the committee, protested that they run a service, including three meals a day, heat and light, television, cleaning and laundry, as well as general caring for those who need and want help. This service has not changed although the Novo Housing Association have left, and the committee have continued putting rent in the bank, in the hope that the GLC would be won over and allow them to stay, and would then accept rent retrospectively for the months when they had refused to accept rent.

She protested at their being treated as squatters. They would not be squatters until a possession order had been issued by the Court. Meanwhile they continued as legal tenants.

The Social Security officers, when asked how the service could possibly be provided at the reduced rate, said "How you run your affairs is not our business. We are not interested."

Accused of colluding with the GLC, they strongly denied it, "We are not concerned with the legality of your tenancy. The Department has the responsibility to deal with people on Supplementary Benefit and no one can tell us who not to help."

Yet they admitted having had a phone call from the GLC Housing Department telling them not to pay the people at Lansdowne Drive because because they were there illegally. They said they had not acted on that, as it was not an official instruction and was in breach of the rules, but when asked then what was causing their sudden change in policy, the reply was, "When ROMA Housing Association (the organisation to which the GLC is trying to hand the management of the houses) was refused entry by you, we were told of the probationary period of a few weeks" that the GLC agreed to grant to the committee to see if they could run the place on their own). "We stood by and did



nothing because we understood that ROMA would take over. (But this, from those who said 'how you run your affairs is no business of ours') and "We felt, in November, that we had stood by long enough, on the understanding that something would develop."

What WAS it they and the GLC hoped "would develop"? Was it the hoped-for collapse of the organisation? Yet in fact that same organisation met with the approval of the GLC Finance Officer who inspected their books on 21 November.

On 25 November Mrs Carmel Carter was summoned to Bonhill Street and given a warning on the grounds that her organisation was not a registered charity.

Yet in the interview in January, Mrs Carter was told that the Social Security officers "were not arguing about the legal status of the organisation running the hostel".

It does appear, however that the legal status and "respectability" of the organisation is the crux of the matter.

The group of residents who have

run the houses so competently for so many months are working hard, with legal help, to become a formally set up registered housing association.

They are a self-help group in the sense that most of the people involved were previously homeless and many of them unemployed. They have settled in Lansdowne Drive, became a stable and self-reliant group, who care about what they are doing for others who are homeless like themselves.

They have enlisted the outside help of a social worker, lawyers, a priest, a politician or two, onto their committee. But it is sheer hypocrisy on the part of the Social Security officers to suggest that all forty-six residents are "people who choose to live together in a community". People don't choose to be homeless, and not all homeless people want to live in a group setting, with communal meals, and only a bedsit of their own. For them this is a temporary stage on their road to getting a home of their own.

So while they appreciate what is being done for them by Carmel and her group in Lansdowne Drive, they do not identify with the management, or want all the hassles it involves. And above all, they will not be deprived of their weekly £4.70 and may not want to know too much about the sufferings of the group running the houses, although they are affected by the tension and anxiety in the air. It is an explosive situation and easy for the authorities to exploit.

It seems to Hackney People's Press that especially in these times when so many homeless people are also unemployed and there is such a criminal waste of human talents and energies, that people should be encouraged to run their organisations.

Let it be noted how well "unofficial contacts" are kept up between separate departments and authorities when wanted, and not at all at other times.

On arrival home after the above interview, Carmel received a phone call from an anxious social worker. Would she take in a homeless young man who had just tried to commit suicide? No one else would have him!

H.A.C. press for extension of abortion clinic



About 150 people picketed the council meeting on 21 January to protest at the decision to allow the anti-abortion group Let Live open a hostel in Hackney.

The Hackney Abortion Campaign and the City and Hackney Community Health Council are calling a public meeting on 7 March at the Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road E2 to urge the Area Health Authority to extend Professor Huntingford's Day Care Abortion Clinic for use of all women in City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham. Professor Huntingford will explain how his clinic has been working over the past year. Run by counsellors and medical staff who have chosen to work there, it provides an abortion service which is sensitive to women's needs.

At present the clinic is only operating 2 or 3 days a week and can only provide abortions for women living in four postal districts of Tower Hamlets area. With an increased staff its work could easily be extended to meet the need for abortions in the whole City and East London area.

With local referral points delays could be minimised making abortion easier and safer. It is envisaged that women having abortions would have transport provided from their home to the clinic.

THE CAMPAIGN

The Hackney Abortion Campaign has issued petition forms to press the City and East London Area Health Authority to extend the Day Care Abortion Clinic. You can get these from HAC c/o Parkholme Road, E8, tel 249 3768. Or write directly to the Community Health Council at 210 Kingsland Road, E2.

The Area Health Authority meet on 9 March and will be discussing this issue and there will be a picket at Abingdon House Chart Street N1 to urge for the extension of the Day Care Abortion Clinic.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE!

ABC March to MI5

During the committal to trial last November of Crispin Aubrey, John Berry and Duncan Campbell, who are being prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act, the key prosecution witness was referred to throughout as Colonel B, as his name and position in the Army was apparently too sensitive to be revealed in open court. After considerable wrangling, and a slanderous attack on a defence solicitor his name was eventually given to the defence. The 16 December issue of Peace News and the January issue of the Leveller subsequently revealed his name to be Colonel H.A. Johnstone, attached to Army General Staff, DI 24. His army number is 420864. This information was independently ascertained by Peace News and the Leveller, and was not given to them by the defence. Details of Colonel B's army career and position are freely available from public sources.

On 23rd January the offices of both magazines were visited by the Special Branch and workers there were threatened that they might be charged with contempt of court. Each magazine stressed to the Special Branch that Johnstone's name was not supplied to them by the defence and that it was available in public reference works. And as no order for secrecy was given by the magistrate a contempt of court charge could not be upheld.

Obviously this is another attempt by the worried state security services to prejudice public opinion against the defendants with talk of "national security". Johnstone's name was withheld from the public so that the statements that he made in court would sound more impressive and undeniable.

Meanwhile a date has been set for the Old Bailey trial of Aubrey, Berry and Campbell which will start on 5th September. On Sunday 19th February (the first anniversary of the arrests) a march will go from Tolmers Square, NW1, near Euston Tower, to the Home Office via MI5 headquarters at Curzon Street House, W.1. (See the

last issue of HPP for details of MI5's operations against ordinary people in this country.) A birthday cake is to be left for Merlyn Rees at the Home Office, March assemblies Tolmers Square, 1.30pm. Please attend!



Among the 900 pages of evidence produced against Duncan Campbell are a collection of photographs of the Post Office Tower - information that is "prejudicial to the security of the state"!

The ABC Campaign has just issued a series of seven stickers to publicise the campaign. One is illustrated above. They are available from ABC Campaign c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Road, WC1 at 50p for fifty. Also available are T shirts, badges and carrier bags.

Hackney Festival of Socialism

A Festival of Socialism in Hackney, for Hackney people organised by Hackney people: a good day out plus socialist politics. This is the idea behind this year's Hackney Festival of Socialism, organised by the Hackney Communist Party for 29 April in Fleetwood School (GLC bookings willing). At the festival there will be a wide variety of children's entertainment, music films, theatre, political discussion, sports etc. Best of all, we hope, there will be a festival village with stalls from local groups advertising their activities, publications etc., and engaging in genuine debate and dialogue. Invitations to groups will be going out in the next few weeks but if your group is interested in taking a stall (cost for the whole day is £1.50) then contact Len Kay, c/o 39 Wargrave Ave N15, tel 800 4061.

Tickets for the festival will be 50p (adults) and 10p (children) and we expect hundreds of people to come - including the Hackney People's Press.

Musical tones through hospital phones

The panel lights are beginning to glow again at Hackney Hospital Radio; 1978 should be a much better year for the radio station dedicated to entertaining and answering the patients of Hackney Hospital. Recent mechanical breakdowns are in the process of being smoothed away by a £500 donation from Lesneys, the toy manufacturers.

The Committee has planned a major fund-raising drive for this year in order to overcome all of the station's problems, and provide a good service not only to the patients at Homerton High Street but possibly to at least two other local hospitals as well, the signal running through landlines hired from the GPO.

If you would like to assist the station in any way or donate some spare cash, please write to Mr A Ross, Hackney Hospital Radio, c/o Hackney Hospital, Homerton High Street, Homerton, E9 or ring the station on 985 5555 ext 115.

Hackney Wholefood

A new wholefood shop has opened in Mare Street, Hackney, called Towards Jupiter. Besides wholefoods it also sells crafts and books, specialising in the works of Rudolf Steiner.

short news

Bookshops protest to Home Office

Workers from Centerprise were among the eighty or so people who picketed the Home Office on 17th January in protest at Home Secretary Merlyn Rees's inaction faced with the increase in racist attacks on various community and alternative bookshops. At least ten bookshops in London, and several outside, have suffered smashed windows, damaged locks, slogan daubing and arson attempts in the last year. Centerprise bookshop in Dalston was closed for three weeks last summer after petrol was poured through the letterbox and set alight. Fortunately the prompt action of the Fire Brigade confined damage to a small area, but £1500 worth of damage was done. The Unity bookshop in Harlesden was not so lucky. The same month it was completely gutted after a firebomb attack.

The response of the Home Office a and senior police officers has been almost complete indifference. A letter was sent to Merlyn Rees in February last year following an attack on the Ealing bookshop, Bogle L'Ouverture. After another attack two months later a second letter was sent. The first letter, the Home Office said, had been misplaced. Since then there has been complete silence.

In response to this official inactivity, seven London bookshops have set up Bookshop Joint Action, to press for action to be taken to counter the fascist threats. The police seem quite happy to spend huge amounts of money "protecting" the National Front whenever they flaunt their racist message (the cost of the police cover in Hyde last year was a staggering £250,000!) but when called to the scene of racist acts of terror ask aggressive questions like "Have you any enemies?" and "Do you give short change?" They nearly always say that it is up to the victims to protect themselves.

Bookshop Joint Action is calling for support against the fascist threat. You can help them with motions of your support through your union or organisation, and by writing direct to Merlyn Rees at the Home Office. Please send a copy of your letter to: Bookshop Joint Action, 5a Chignell Place, Ealing, London W.13. 579 4920.

Crèche bulletins

Child-Care Bulletin Collective have now produced No. 1½ and No 2 of their bulletin. No 1½ is a revised and extended version of No 1, "Creches for Political Meetings and Events". It is the only publication on the subject at present, and has proved very popular. It now includes a review of creches and a report on the Womens Liberation Conference Creche 1977. The bulk of the pamphlet is a practical guide to the organisation and preparation of a creche with the reasons for having them argued from an anarcho-feminist point of view. The CCB Collective would particularly welcome any further contributions from either parents (or people with children) or creche-workers that would go towards improving on the guide.

No 2 is the beginning of a series of articles on subjects related to the main theme of child-care. It contains articles on childbirth, abortion and pre-menstrual tension. Both pamphlets are illustrated with diagrams and/or cartoons. Cost 20p each plus 10p p&p, from Child-Care Bulletin, 112b Forest Road E8. The Collective is open and welcomes anyone interested, with or without children. Phone 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting - with creche of course!

Empty Homes: Campaign grows

A lot of people seem to be taking an active concern about the thousands of houses which are lying empty in London. The Department of the Environment are nearing completion of their survey of empty property in London. At the "partnership" meeting between voluntary groups and the Council held on 30th January four different speakers asked for a commitment from the Council to provide a list of Hackney's empty houses. On 1st February the Hackney Community Housing Action Group made a strong commitment to act towards bringing empty property back into use. Alan Everett, Director of the Housing Centre, has said that they are always looking for short-life empty property that might be used.

A survey of empty homes has been done recently in the borough, and the Housing Action Group is in possession of a list of some 2000 empty houses. At the last meeting of the Group, which was attended by Clare Guggenheim of the National Empty Homes Campaign, plans were made to investigate these houses more fully, starting with Rectory Ward. The Group is also compiling comprehensive information about groups and individuals that are interested in using short-life (1-2 years) property in the borough. There is a lot of scope for using such properties through Housing Associations, Housing Cooperatives etc but...

In order to compile sufficient information about the property to present the best case for using the empty houses, a lot of work needs to be done. At present, the Housing Action Group is quite small. A lot more people will be needed for it to become effective - especially in surveying. If you're concerned about the blight of empty properties around the borough, contact Jon Webber, HCHAG, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel 254 9632.

Howard League

The East London branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform is actively seeking new members. The Howard League campaigns for the advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

They are holding a public meeting on Friday 24th February at St Margarets House, 21 Old Ford Road, E2, which will be chaired by Peter Chappell, well known for his activity in the Free George Davis Campaign. The film "The Wasted Years" will be shown.

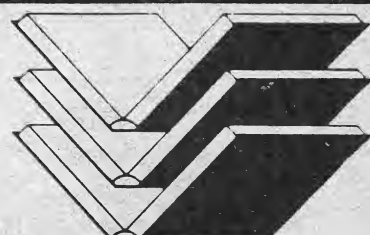
HEALTH IN HACKNEY

The NHS and how to make it work for you

HEALTH IN HACKNEY is a FREE guide to all the facilities offered by the Health Service in Hackney, and is full of information.

It is published by the City & Hackney Community Health Council and is available from them at 210 Kingsland Road, E2, or from Centerprise, Chats Palace, Wally Foster Centre and other shops and community centres round the borough. MORE THAN 100 PAGES - GET ONE FREE!

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FAIR SHARES FOR ALL?

PARTNERSHIP SCOOP

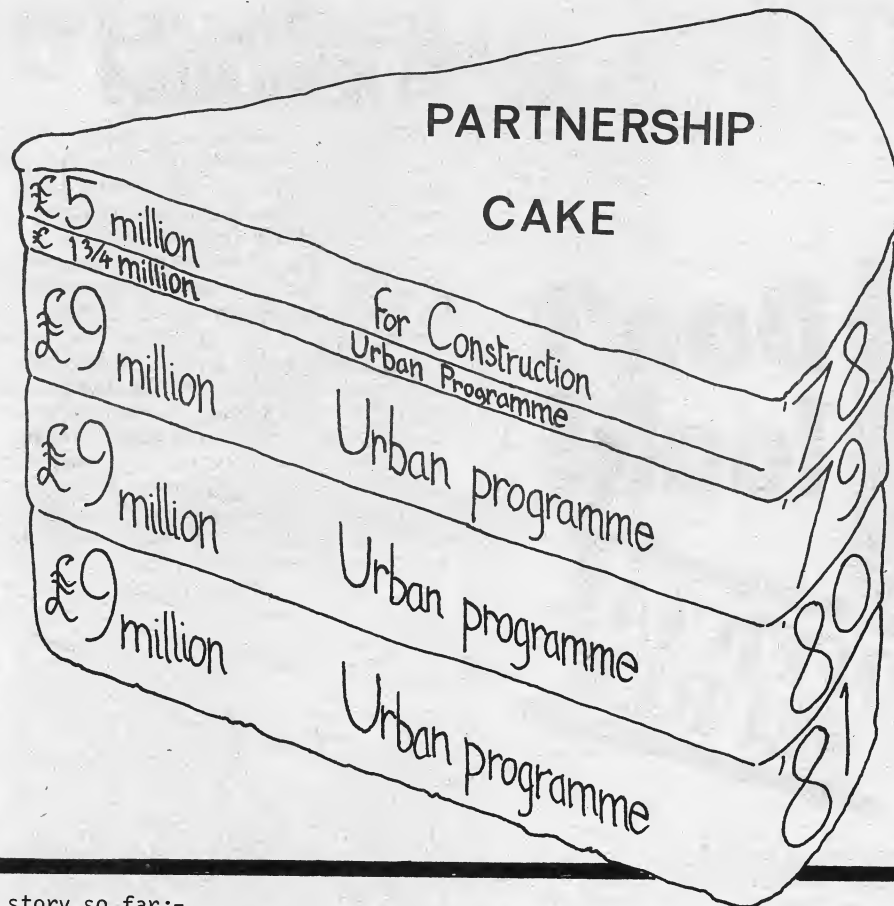
On 30 January in the Town Hall the first meeting took place between Council officials and voluntary groups to discuss the involvement of such groups in deciding how the "partnership" money is to be spent. Because it was an evening meeting, the Hackney Gazette was not represented, their reporters having banned evening work at the time. This, then, is the only full public report.

More than 100 members of voluntary groups assembled in the Town Hall to meet a panel consisting of Councillor Edwards (Chairman, Planning and Highways), Mr D Ward (Chief Executive), Mr J Seabourne (Director of Finance), Mr M Williams (Director of Development), Ms M Sugden (Director of Social Services) and two representatives from ILEA. Alderman Ottolangu (Leader of the Council) and Councillor S Scott (Chairman of Social Services Committee) were also supposed to attend but couldn't, which left just Councillor Edwards as the only Councillor present.

The meeting was first addressed by Cllr Edwards who patted the Council on the back for winning the partnership scheme with Islington and emphasised the importance of consultation with voluntary groups.

Dennis Woods apologised for not having published the paper called "Themes and Priorities" which the Partnership Committee has produced and describes how they see the money should be spent. The Partnership Committee next meet in March. Mr Woods went on to explain how partnership mechanism would work. Development of partnership themes and policies will be the job of an Inner City Team who will report its recommendations to a Partnership Officers Steering Group. The Steering Group support the Partnership Committee (who consist of elected representatives of all the partnership authorities including central government).

So much was known already to most of those attending the meeting. Mr Woods placed great emphasis on the



The story so far:-

Partnerships were first mentioned in the Government white paper "A Policy for Inner Cities". The Government believes that the time has come to give the inner city areas an explicit priority in social and economic policy. Hackney and Islington were granted a Partnership in November last year, and the actual amount of money involved can be seen above.

It is the Government's Department of the Environment, Home Office, Departments of Trade and Industry, Education and Science, Employment and Health and Social Security who will form a consortium with the London boroughs of Hackney and Islington, the GLC, ILEA and the two area health authorities.

The main aims of partnership are to strengthen inner city economies and improve job prospects, to improve the physical fabric of the inner areas and to alleviate other social problems. The partnership mechanism is explained in the article.

What has happened so far is that the Partnership Committee met on 16 January where they adopted a "Themes and Priorities" paper which Dennis Woods mentioned at the public meeting.

The white paper emphasises the need to draw in the ideas of local residents, to discover their priorities and enable them to play a practical part.

"key feature of Community involvement" and so everyone was expecting some real progress and substantial commitments when it came to question time. Sadly, and to the great frustration of all attending, not a single commitment was made. "Sympathy", however, abounded.

Andreas Michaelides spoke on behalf of Hackney Community Link-up, the umbrella organisation representing Hackney's voluntary and community groups. He made strong criticism of the panel for not having given more notice of the meeting and of the deadline of 1 March for groups wishing to apply to the Scheme. Andreas wanted to know how much of the money would go to groups and thought that the public should be able to monitor where money was spent. Community Link-up wanted a commitment to representation to voluntary groups on the Steering Group and that the Council would provide details of empty properties that groups might use as bases. Nearly all the points made were evaded in some way, and the question of empty property was clearly ignored. Charles Hawes, of the Hackney Community Housing Action Group pressed again for a commitment to use empty houses, though none was given. There were numerous other speeches from the floor, seeking commitment to voluntary involvement at Committee level and to the use of empty property. Liz McGovern spoke on behalf of Hackney Under Fives, John Carr from the Community Relations Council, Diana Fernhead from Link-up - all pressing these points - as well as numerous other groups voicing their concerns.

After two hours the meeting was drawn to a close. The nearest thing to a commitment was the recognition that Link-up would have an obvious part to play somewhere without excluding other groups.

The majority of voluntary representatives left feeling highly frustrated with the lack of progress and evasiveness of the panel.

Should you be a member of a voluntary group and may wish to affiliate to Link-up, contact Marie Lewis, St Mary's Rectory, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16, tel 249 0670

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT

Windscale

AND

nuclear power

?

DEMONSTRATE
MARCH 19 TRAFALGAR SQUARE

A Hackney Friends of the Earth group is forming and is interested to hear from anyone in the area who has the same sympathies. If you would like to come to the next meeting, contact:

Jim Read Tel. 802 0122

NF COUNTERED

The Young National Front's claim that they were going to distribute thousands of their latest leaflet, How to Spot a Red Teacher, received a rebuff when it was revealed that no leaflets at all had turned up in any school in the ILEA district. So it looks as though that their claim was just another of their headline-grabbing stunts. It also seems unlikely that they have managed to distribute any copies of their "youth newspaper", Bulldog.

As reported in the last issue of HPP the National Union of School Students has produced a leaflet countering the fascist propaganda, and copies of this are available from them at 302 Pentonville Road, N.1. Both they, and Hackney People's Press, would like to know if any of our readers see or have seen any racist literature handed out in schools, in Hackney or elsewhere in London.

Meanwhile, it looks as though the Front may no longer be able to use schools for meetings during election periods. The law which allows them to deface Hackney's multi-racial schools in this way states clearly that election meetings must be open to the public. Both recent election meetings held in Hackney clearly were not so - even HPP's reporter was not allowed in! The Hackney Community Relations Commission was told last month that ILEA was taking legal advice to counter the Front's tactics.

Homeworkers!

Do you work at home?
If you do come and meet
others who do the same
Bring your kids, have tea,
coffee and a rest, every
Thursday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

At the

FAMILY CENTRE

50 RECTORY RD, N16



Fun at the old Fire Station

The idea that Hackney Council should buy the old Fire Station on the corner of Northwold Road and Leswin Road, just off Stoke Newington Common, came about this year, as a result of a lot of door-knocking and foot-slogging around the area and discussions among the people of neighbouring streets. One of the people who has worked with the most enthusiasm on this is Ellie Simmons of Tyssen Road Stoke Newington.

Ellie loves children and works with them. She is particularly keen on the nursery project. The plan is to convert the first floor of the old fire station into a nursery, to be open all day, properly staffed and run on similar lines to other community nurseries in Hackney. The area is full of children, and desperately short of facilities - playgroups, day nurseries, playgrounds - it is well known to the GLC and Hackney Council from official surveys carried out, to be one of the most needy, and least well provided areas in the whole of London.

They called a meeting on 1 February in order to set up a Nursery Steering Committee. About twenty-five people came, and fourteen local mothers have now formed a committee. They already have sixty children on their waiting list.

Ellie told HPP, "People keep coming to my door asking for their children's names to be put down for the nursery. I have to tell them there is no nursery yet, and we don't know if there ever will be. But we won't be put off now."

There are a lot of other groups who want to use the fire station too. "Some kids want an after-school club", said Ellie. "There's Mr Yearwood, he runs a steel band and teaches local youngsters to play. There are sixty boys on his list. They come around his place every night from 4-8 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays as well. He has offered to run the club in the fire station voluntarily, from 4-8 pm after school".

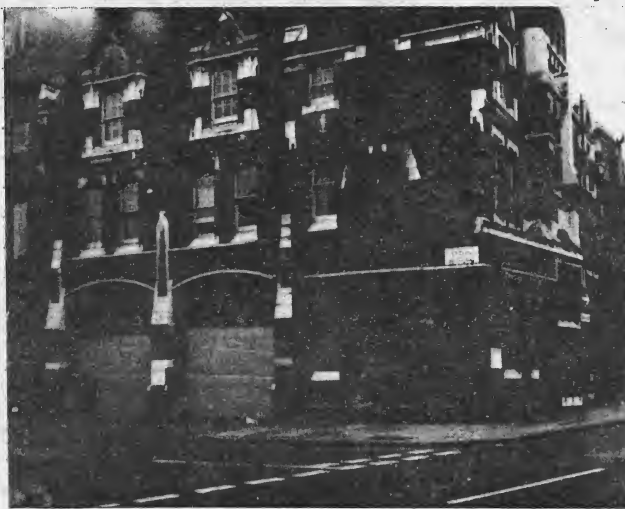
Mr Yearwood's house suffered from a fire last year and he urgently needs better premises.

So far there are 11 local community groups who have affiliated to the Stoke Newington Community Association, and want to share the use of the fire station premises.

There is a Pensioners' Club, who meet at 1 pm, a group of Majorettes who meet and practise every week, a welfare organisation for Black Youth, a Turkish Women's group, a mother and toddler club and others.

These groups and other local people have formed the Stoke Newington Community Association and have been working on a constitution, so that they can be well-enough organised

The old Stoke Newington Fire Station on the corner of Leswin and Brooke Roads, N.16. Will local people be allowed to run this as their own community centre?



to manage such a complex enterprise.

Charles Fenton is their Chairman; Glendora and Mildred Hackshaw are Secretary and Assistant Secretary; Festus Coker is treasurer, and others on the committee are Ronald Hinds, J Beazley and Sue Farrow. Sue is a typist and has just typed out their completed application for a grant under the "Urban Aid Scheme" which she took to the Council on Friday. Because of the "Partnership Scheme" they are more hopeful than they would have been in other years. The fact that Leswin Road is a "Housing Action Area" should help too.

They want to persuade Hackney Council to allow them to manage the premises themselves, through a democratically elected committee of local members and representatives of any organisations that use the premises. However, at the moment their most serious worry is that the Council will not agree to this.

They met Cllr Dick Andrews, explaining all the points they wanted to him. He was very helpful and sympathetic, and when they wrote to him after the meeting, confirming the various points agreed at their meeting, he wrote back confirming and accepting all their points except one - their wish to manage the premises themselves.

"We want the people of Stoke Newington to be allowed to run the building themselves," Ellie Simmons explained. "Until we had the idea, they didn't even dream of buying the building for the use of the community. But now they want to take it over and run it themselves, as they don't think we're suitable to run the building".

HPP rang Mr George Brooker, an officer of Hackney Council who is in charge of community halls in the borough. He said that this building sets a new precedent in community

halls, as it is not on a Council estate, and will be shared by local Council tenants and by residents in the older streets round about. He said the Council would retain ultimate control, but would encourage a local committee to run their own affairs in the premises, and would not interfere. However, this is not the answer which the Stoke Newington Community Association would like to hear. And they can point to other organisations such as the community nurseries, and Chats Palace, and others, who are grant-aided, and asked to give good account of how they use public money, but are allowed to make all the decisions and run their organisations and premises themselves.

They have asked for permission to

take a deputation to a council meeting, but have been told they can't do this until the Council has finally decided to buy the building. They are still negotiating the price and various details with the GLC and a decision will not be made until after this month.

Another cause of frustration to local people is the delays and the time the Council has taken. The station has not even been opened on a temporary basis yet, although that was agreed by the GLC some time ago, in principle.

Meanwhile vandals are getting in and doing expensive damage. There were six occasions last week alone. Local committee members have to keep going over and boarding it up again. The police have been called in.

The longer it stands, the more it will cost to do it up.

Ellie Simmons said the Council have agreed to spend £30,000 on renovations, if the purchase goes through as expected. But the costs are enormous, and the GLC fire regulations people came round and estimates to date suggest that the £30,000 could all be spent putting a nursery in on the first floor. This is why further applications are having to be put forward for the cost of preparing the ground floor for use.



East End Impressions

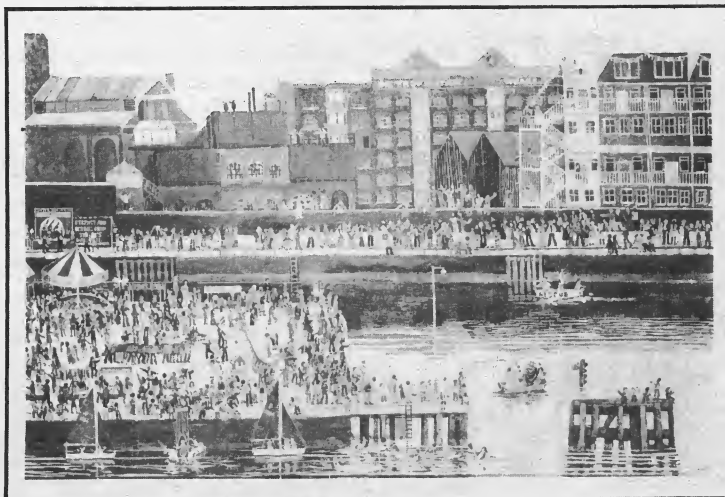
East End Impressions is a project set up by East End painters and friends to encourage painting and the production and sale of cheap prints. The following three prints, all in full colour, represent the first productions of the project. All proceeds from sales additional to costs go to reproducing other artists' work.



A Summer Stroll Image size 42.5cms x 30cms £2.50
Taploe Johnson



The Wash House Image size 44.5cms x 30cms £2.50
Ron Barnes



E.1 Festival, Shadwell Basin Image size 66cms x 42.5cms £5.00
Dan Jones

These prints are available either from Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London, E8 or THAP Bookshop, 57 Watney Street, London E1. They can also be obtained by post by sending the correct amount together with 50p postage per order (cash with order) to either address. Enquiries for bulk orders, or orders for re-sale, are welcome.

London cuts: forging links

The London Council for Social Service is running a series of seminars, followed by a one day conference which will look at the effect of the cuts on local areas of London.

The series is wide ranging but the emphasis is on the way in which expenditure cuts affect local employment and services, and the way in which joint action can be developed.

They take place on Tuesday even-

ings at 6.30pm, starting on 14th February at the LCSS offices. Attendance is limited to 20 places at the seminars which will cover the topics of Jobs, Homes, Transport, Health and Education.

The Saturday whole day conference will be on 18th March.

For more details contact Ced Jackson, Community Work Service, LCSS, 68 Chalton Street, NW1.

GEFFRYE MUSEUM

projects bring history to life

Set back from the thundering traffic of Kingsland Road and surrounded by tall London Planes stands the Geffrye Museum, presenting a facade of calm and sobriety. An unlikely haunt, one might think, for the neighbourhood children. But not so. For the museum, which is administered by the ILEA, offers a wide variety of activities and excitement for local children each Saturday and during the school holidays, as well as providing its better known service for school visits.

The building which houses the museum was originally built as almshouses in 1715 bequeathed by Sir Robert Geffrye, an early Lord Mayor of London. In 1910 the LCC bought it to save the site as an open space - a rarity in Shoreditch. Pressure was put on the Council to use the building for a museum and since it lay in the heart of the furniture and cabinet making industry, it was opened as a furniture museum in 1914.

Visiting the museum today one is able to wander through a series of rooms and shop fronts set out as they

would have been at different periods of history. The museum succeeds in giving the objects of the past an interest which is often lost in more traditional museums. This liveliness is not lost on the children either.

I visited on a typical Saturday afternoon earlier this year and found children throughout the museum seated at stools with clipboards on their knees, busily puzzling their way through one of



the many varied and interesting worksheets which the museum provides, or sketching a piece of furniture. Other children were occupied in the craft room of the museum where they were working with clay, making modern day Toby Jugs. The photograph shows ten year old Carmel O'Brien at work. I spoke to the Antoine family, Maureen and Marva, aged 16 and Colin aged 14 who had been spending their Saturdays at the museum for many years. They told me of the other facilities which the museum provides - the opportunity to dress up in period costume, and other craft activities like lino cut printing, collage work and basketry.

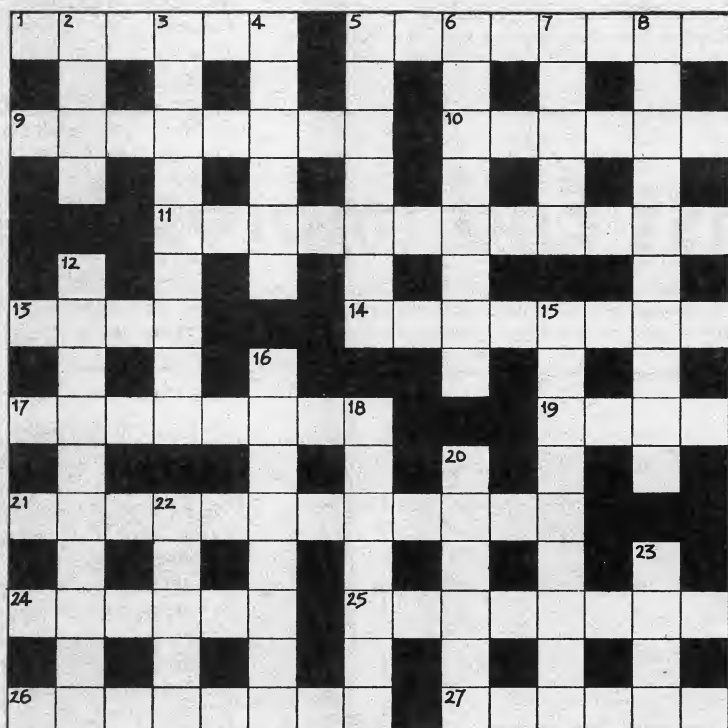
During the Christmas holidays the museum's holiday project focussed on the origins of our Christmas traditions - the turkey, cards, holly and ivy etc. The children as well as learning about these things were able to make their own cards using lino cuts and the week culminated in a Punch and Judy Show which we see the children enjoying in the photograph.

The teachers and helpers in charge of these activities and projects feel they are most appropriate for children and young people aged between 7 and 16 years. Any local children who are interested should go along any Saturday or during school holidays between 10-12.30 or 2-4.00 pm. They can be assured of an enjoyable and constructive time. The museum, of course, is open to all at the following times: Tues-Sat 10-5
Sun 2-5



HPP CROSSWORD

No. 2



ACROSS

1. Drive forward (6)
5. Permits too great freedom of action to a point (8)
9. Collection in church (8)
10. Rectifies (6)
11. Break in continuity (12)
13. Accurate (4)
14. Fertilisers (8)
17. Feeler (8)
19. Deceased (4)
21. Sail past the tip of South America (5, 3, 4)
24. More affectionate (6)
25. Providing with a permanent income (8)
26. Tent flap (3, 5)
27. What everyone works toward? (3, 3)

DOWN

2. Floating platform of logs (4)
3. US Leader (9)
4. At rest at sea (4, 2)
5. Fetter (3, 4)
6. Bribes (8)
7. Watchman's shift? (5)
8. Outgoing people (10)
12. Anybody's fight? (4,3,4)
15. ... extremely biased (3,3,3)
16. Totally unpunished (4,4)
18. Proper environment (7)
20. Bring to a standstill for robbery? (4,2)
22. Nominates (5)
23. Peruvian Inca (4)

A MYSTERY PRIZE will be awarded to the sender of the first correct entry drawn. Closing date - 28 February. Solution in the next issue. Send entries to HPP, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E8.

recipes



Here are two recipes for a tasty and inexpensive supper dish, both using pasta. Each recipe is enough for 2-3 people, and can be served with a crisp green salad.

Spaghetti alla Carbonara

- 1-2 lb spaghetti
- 1 onion, finely sliced
- 4 oz bacon, diced
- 1 1/2 oz butter
- 1 wineglass white wine or cider
- 2-3 eggs
- 2 oz Parmesan cheese
- 1 rounded tablespoon chopped parsley
- pepper
- 1/2 oz butter

Fry the onion and bacon in the 1 1/2 oz butter till golden. Tip on the wine or cider, and continue cooking till almost evaporated.

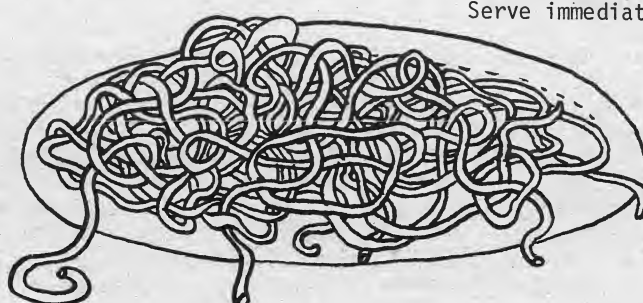
In a bowl whisk together the eggs, parmesan cheese, parsley and pepper. Meanwhile cook the spaghetti in plenty of salted water for 12-15 minutes. Drain and add the 1/2 oz butter.

Return the buttered spaghetti to the pan and add the egg mix, and the cooked onion and bacon. Place over a very low heat until it forms a creamy consistency (about 1-2 minutes). Be careful of overcooking at this stage. Serve at once. Delicious!

Pasta with Cream Sauce

- 8 oz pasta eg tagliatelle or spaghetti
- 2 oz butter
- 4 rashers streaky bacon, chopped
- 4 oz mushrooms, sliced
- 1 green pepper, halved seeded and diced
- 1 oz flour
- 6 fl oz milk
- 1/2 pt single cream
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 4 oz cheese, crumbled

Cook the pasta in plenty of boiling salted water for 12-15 minutes. While the pasta is cooking, melt 1 oz of the butter and stir in the bacon, mushrooms and green pepper. Cook gently for 4-5 minutes. Add the flour, mustard powder and milk. Bring to the boil stirring constantly until the mixture has thickened. Lower the heat and simmer gently for several minutes. Add half the cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste. When the pasta is cooked, drain well and then return to the pan with the remaining butter and toss lightly. Pour the pasta into an ovenproof shallow dish as a border. Stir the cream into the sauce and pour into the pasta border. Sprinkle remaining cheese over the top. Brown under a hot grill for a few minutes. Serve immediately.



Information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.
For the next issue, just send us your information by
Friday 24th February

Write to Hackney People's Press, Box 1, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
Upper Clapton Congregational Hall, E5.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146 (office hours)

HACKNEY COMMUNITY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and work to get it used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION
c/o 35 Finnmore House, Woodberry Down, N4.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES
Held at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 254 1193. Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.30pm. Held at the Wally Foster Centre, E9. Tel. 985 3972. Every Wednesday 1.30pm.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5.
Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

Transport

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Fighting for cycle tracks and better provisions for cyclists. Contact Michael Eilman, 21 Arlington Square, N1. Tel. 226 1887.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE
1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST-FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N.16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 5208.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

SNAGS
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 936 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N.16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Food

DOWN TO EARTH
Durham Row, Stepney Green, E1. Tel. 790 3512.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs etc.
Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm.

FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

TOMORROW'S JUPITER
191 Mare Street, E.8. 985 5394.
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

Gays

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

Education

SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
83 Eleanor Road, E8.
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AE1, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AE1, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763.

Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 6981.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9635.

Ms J. Hewes, HIGHBURY MANOR AE1, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.

John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N.1. 739 5431.

Political Groups

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY
HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.
HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays, Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.
HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.
HACKNEY CENTRAL
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.
HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.
HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.
HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.
For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

LONDON WORKERS GROUP
For independent militants, working anarchists and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China. Meets regularly at Centerprise.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road, E.8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting - with creche!

Meditation

ANANDA MARGA
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at 1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

Music and Broadcasts

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO
Pro gramme schedule:
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show

Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows
5pm-7pm Soul Show
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

Events and Meetings

Sun 12 February: Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.8. 11am. WEA Course- "A Socialist Strategy for Hackney: Housing, management and development."

Mon 13-Tues 14 February. Chats Palace, Brooksbys Walk E.9. 10am-5pm Video Project.

Thurs 16 February. St Hilda's East, Club Row, E2. 7.30pm. Red Ladder theatre in "Taking Our Time". Play about Yorkshire.

Fri 17 February. Centerprise. 7.30pm Tess Gill on "Are there progressive laws?"

Fri 17 February. 8pm. Hoxton Hall, Hoxton Street, N.1. Monstrous Regiment theatre in "Floor Show". Cabaret about women and work.

Sat 18 February. Chats Palace. 3pm. Jibber jabber show for kids.

Sat 18 February, Rio Cinema, Kingsland High Street, E.8. 7.30pm. Film: "The Harder They Come" starring Jimmy Cliff.

Sun 19 February, Trades Hall. 11am. WEA Course- "A Socialist Strategy for Hackney: planning and environment."

Mon 20 February. The Factory, 107 Matthias Road, N.16. Hackney Socialist Feminists meeting. Women and the family - discussion with Hermione Harris.

Fri 24 February. St Margaret's House House, 21 Old Ford Road, E2. 7.30pm. Howard League for Penal Reform public meeting and film "The Wasted Years". Chaired by Peter Chappell.

Fri 24 February. Hoxton Hall. 8pm. Ewan Macoll and Peggy Seeger in concert.

Sat 25 February. Chats Palace. 7.30pm. Ignition Poets poetry reading.

Sun 26 February, Trades Hall. 11am. WEA Course- "A Socialist Strategy for Hackney: employment."

Mon 27 February. Centerprise. 7.30pm. Anarchist Communist Association open meeting: "Trades Unionism."

Wed 1 March. Trades Hall. Bob Hughes MP on "Southern Africa". London Co-Op Meeting.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit-making newspaper produced for the people of Hackney by a group of people who live in Hackney. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing. HPP is YOUR paper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to help us. No-one gets paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively. You can tell us what you think about the paper or volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue at a meeting to be held on

Friday 3rd March at 8pm in Centerprise.

Or you can contact us by writing to us at Box 1, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. Or ring 249 0311 (evenings and weekends only.)

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think you newsagent would like to sell it, then please contact us. If you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading it, and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

subscribe

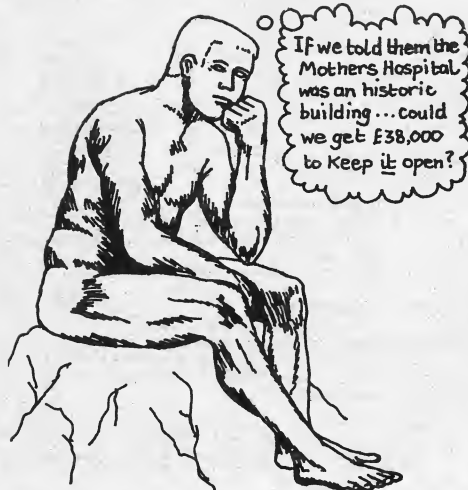
to Hackney People's Press and make sure you get your copy every month. Only £1.70 for ten issues - guaranteed delivery! Please make cheque/PO payable to Hackney People's Press and send it to us at Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____



PHOTO NEWS

The GLC is to spend £38,000 restoring a mock-Greek building in Laura Place, just off Lower Clapton Road. When the work is complete the building, which used to be the London Orphan Asylum, will be surrounded by grass and trees. HPP's photographer went to take a look....



HELPPP US GROW

If you are a regular reader of Hackney People's Press you may wonder why we've never printed a regular appeal for money to support the paper. Somehow we've always managed to pay our running costs with the money that we get from sales, plus the odd donation. But now it's Crunch Time...

At the moment it costs us about £100 to produce each monthly issue. We can only make enough money to pay our printer each month if we sell nearly all the copies that we print - and none of us get paid for working on the paper, not even expenses!

We want to make HPP a bigger and better newspaper so, until we can produce and sell even more copies we are going to need extra money each month. For instance, it would cost us about £40 to have each issue "set" in type, instead of, as at the moment, typed on a borrowed typewriter. We would like to do this if we can, but we need this extra £40. And we would like to have an

office of our own - but then we'd have to pay the rent!

So... if you think that Hackney needs an alternative newspaper, and you want it to grow then please send us your donations, however small. If all of our readers could spare us a few pence each month, then we can make HPP a bigger, better and more frequent newspaper!

Alternatively, can you help us raise money in other ways? We held a benefit at Christmas, which was a great success, and are planning a jumble sale and, perhaps, another benefit. Would you like to help us with these?

We always welcome readers at our meetings, when we talk about what we should include in future issues of the paper. If you would like to help us in any way, then come along. The next meeting will be held at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, on FRIDAY 3rd MARCH at 8pm.



Pictures taken with an Olympus Camera and developed in an Archimedes bath....